



GeoNews

Southwest Texas State University Department of Geography Newsletter

Votteler and DeChano Earn First Ph.D.'S at SWT!!!

Dr. Fred M. Shelley



History was made on Saturday, May 12 when Southwest Texas State

University awarded the first two doctoral degrees in the University's history. Ph.D.'s in Environmental Geography were awarded to Todd Votteler, originally from Dallas, and Lisa DeChano, a native of Clarendon, Pennsylvania.

Todd's dissertation, written under the direction of Distinguished Professor Joe Moore, was entitled "Water from a Stone: The Limits of Sustainable Development of the Edwards Aquifer." Todd has begun work as Director of Water Policy for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority in Seguin, TX.

Lisa's dissertation, written under the direction of Dr. David Butler, was entitled

"Geohazard Perception in Glacier National Park, Montana, USA." Lisa has taken a tenure-track faculty position in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California.

We are especially pleased that Todd's parents and Lisa's parents, brother, and sister-in-law were able to join us in celebrating this great achievement. The celebration of Todd and Lisa's achievements was even more special because an honorary doctorate was awarded to Gilbert Grosvenor, chief executive officer of the National Geographic Society. In his commencement address, Grosvenor called attention to the banners in Strahan Coliseum celebrating athletic achievement and said, "Do you realize that your Geography Department is in the Final Four every year?"

The Department cordially congratulates Todd and Lisa, and looks forward to awarding several more Ph.D. degrees in the near future!

NGS Chair Receives Honorary Doctorate

Lisa Zapata Cruz,
SWT Media Relations



Gilbert M. Grosvenor, chairman of the National Geographic Society Board of Trustees and of its Education Foundation, received an honorary doctorate in geographic education during the Southwest Texas State University undergraduate commencement ceremony May 13.

Although Grosvenor has several honorary doctorates from various colleges

and universities, this is Grosvenor's first in geographic education. Grosvenor is the third recipient of an honorary doctorate from SWT, in the company of Lyndon Johnson, former president of the United States, who received his honorary doctor of laws degree in 1962 as vice president, and Lady Bird Johnson, former first lady, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters in 1983.

Grosvenor joined the National Geographic Society staff in 1954 as a picture editor after graduating from Yale University. He served as editor of National Geographic from 1970 to 1980, when he became the society's 14th president. He retired in 1996 as president, the fifth generation of his family to serve in that position. He was elected chairman of the board of trustees in 1987.

see *Honorary Doctorate*, pg. 6

Young Supports Scholarships with \$100,000 Pledge

Jena Ellsworth



In the Fall 2000 semester, the Department of Geography was delighted to receive an extremely caring surprise: Mr. Michael Young generously pledged to

support our 20 Faculty Scholarships with a \$100,000 funding match!

I had the pleasure of interviewing Mr. Young during a recent department visit. When asked how he came to the decision of donating the funds to the Department, he replied, "I was fortunate to go to a university and get a college degree. I wanted to give back to SWT and the Geography Department." Mr. Young further added, "I am proud of the Geography Department and I wanted to play a part in helping expand it."

Mr. Young earned his BA in Geography from SWT in 1971. He came to the decision of majoring in geography when Dr. Richard Boehm challenged him to take a 1310 class, and Mr. Young discovered that geography was what he enjoyed studying. Since then, he has been using his economic

see *Young*, pg. 8

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Greetings From The Chair

Dr. Lawrence Estaville



Last May was a very exciting time for your Geography Department when it made history by graduating SWT's first Ph.D. students—Lisa DeChano and Todd Votteler!!

And your Geography Department sponsored Gilbert M. Grosvenor, Chairman of the Board of the National Geographic Society, as the third person to be presented with an honorary doctorate at SWT—President Lyndon B. Johnson was the first and First Lady Lady Bird Johnson was the second!! And during his commencement address, Mr. Grosvenor called your Geography Department “the best in the nation!!”

Let's see now. In the last three years your Geography Department has hosted Astronaut Jim Lovell of Apollo 13 fame; Shuttle Astronaut Sally Ride, the first American woman in space; former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker; Gilbert Grosvenor of the National Geographic Society; and Bill Allen, Managing Editor of the *National Geographic Society Magazine!* Many major universities would be very delighted to have had such a lineup of world-class celebrities in a three-year period! So be proud of your SWT Geography Department—and it keeps getting better!!

We currently have a 100% placement rate with our Ph.D. student graduates! Lisa DeChano, who competed with 41 applicants from such universities as Ohio State and UCLA, took a faculty position at California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, CA. The Guadeloupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) established a high-level position, Director of Water Policy, for Todd Votteler who will now play an even more important role in formulating water resource policy in Texas. Big Congratulations to Lisa and Todd!!

Our Sixth Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration last April was another huge success with more than 400 people returning to SWT from places as far away as California, Kansas, and Washington, DC. Two highlights from the event stood out: 1) There was not a dry eye in Alkek Auditori-

um at the end of the presentation of 24 scholarships (21 new ones) to our students!! Geography faculty sponsored most of the new scholarships, and many of the people who were honored in the titles of the scholarships helped present them to outstanding students. What an extraordinarily emotional moment in the history of your department! I must mention some special people when writing about our new scholarships: Geography Distinguished Alumnus Tim Staskus and his family donated \$15,000 for a scholarship, and the first Geography Distinguished Alumnus Michael Young pledged \$100,000 to match the 20 faculty-sponsored scholarships!!! Let's all thank Michael and Tim for their truly amazing gifts to the outstanding students of your department!! 2) The National Geographic Society flew in a magnificent crew to show two very dramatic videos from their superb collection. Peggy Steele Clay, an African-American who is currently the Teacher in Residence at the Society, narrated a deeply moving video about diversity in America. Mark your calendars for April 21, 2001 for the Seventh Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration that will include two new venues—one down on the river!

Also plan to attend Jack Dangermond's presentation on Monday, December 18, 2000, about GIS. Mr. Dangermond is the founder and CEO of the world's largest GIS software firm, the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI). I should mention that SWT Geography now offers ESRI-sponsored GIS courses here in the department. Please check our Web site for more information.

Your department now has 511 undergraduate, 146 Master, and 25 Ph.D. students and continues to be the largest Geography Department in North America! Our students continue to participate enthusiastically in Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the Student Planning Organization (SPO), the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), Support for Women in Geography (SWIG), and the Graduate Student Forum. Several of our students were honored once again during the past year with awards at national and state conferences or were congratulated for their publications!

Angelika Lester continues to do a simply superb job as our department office

manager! Joan Pasquali and Jena Ellsworth are excellent office staff who also make certain our ship stays on a steady course! And without Dan “The Computer Man” Hemenway we would be dead in the water with more than 325 department computers to be maintained!

You can see that I am very proud to be the chair of your department! You, too, should be very proud to be a part of your internationally recognized Department of Geography! Check out our Web site at www.geo.swt.edu, or get a copy of our video (for a copy of the video, call the department at 512-245-2170 or e-mail: geography@swt.edu). For “up close and personals,” be here for your Seventh Annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 21! I look forward to seeing you and your families at this annual department highlight to join more than 500 other people for student awards and scholarships, reminiscing, networking, workshops, vendor displays, seeing your department's new equipment and facilities, and having a day of fun and food on the river!

Editor's Note

Jena Ellsworth

I am not a geographer. Sure, I draw a pretty decent map to my house for parties, but I can say with a large amount of certainty that I had no idea about what geography was or why it was important. Until, that is, I became the Administrative Assistant II for the SWT Geography Department just over a year ago. Now, while I still don't really know what GIS does or what remote sensing is, I do know one thing: the love of geography is contagious. The faculty and staff of this department have shown me time and again the passion and dedication they have to the students, the department, and the discipline.

When people you work with have a passion for something, it's easy to develop a passion for it yourself. In the past year, I have learned more about geography from my desk in the office than I learned in that semester of my so-called geography class in high school. What I have learned is that the enthusiasm running through the veins of this department is a product of one common goal: to make this world a better place. Whether it's through the mentorship

see Editor, pg 11

Undergraduate Program News

Dr. Brock Brown



If you were ever a student during the summer at SWT, you know that the slower pace of campus life is occasionally interrupted by groups of new and transfer students who will soon be entering the university. Over the past few years the number of orientation sessions have been greatly expanded to allow for smaller groups and more personalized attention for the new SWT Texans. I find the new orientation format much more enjoyable and productive because it allows those of us who do advising of new and transfer students wanting to pursue a geography degree more time to discuss the program and its options in greater depth and make considerable progress toward getting our new majors off to a good start.

This past summer we saw a substantial number of excellent students choosing to attend SWT because of the strengths of our department. This was particularly rewarding since most of our majors are not students brand new to SWT, but rather are students who have been at SWT for a few semesters before they “discover” geography. Many have not declared a major; some find they have chosen a major that was not turning out as they had hoped. These students, often oblivious to geography up to this point, find themselves in their first geography course, often fulfilling a core requirement. Excellent instruction and meaningful content literally open their eyes and soon after they come trickling to my office to learn more about the major and how it can help them achieve their objectives. Another way students “discover” geography is by word-of-mouth. Our existing majors are vocal and enthusiastic about the department and our programs and many of their friends come to learn more about the great opportunities in geography.

The apparent increase in excellent students who have chosen SWT in order to study in the department and declare a geography major prior to their first semester is an indication that the word is getting out beyond the university community. That, in part, is due to the success and continued support of our alumni. More and more of the students who arrive on campus in pursuit of geography report that they know someone who has gone through the program and is now working as a geographer in an interesting and rewarding job. When students choose to study geography because they have had personal experience with geographers and like what they have seen, this completes the circle. When you, as our alumni, continue to emphasize your geography training and its relationship to your professional life, you provide a strong role model that exposes prospective students to the opportunities of geography. We cherish the overwhelming number of majors who discover us midway in their academic training. We also are excited to see an increasing number of students who begin their college careers as geography majors. Incoming students who choose geography early in their college experience have more time to complete their geography and related minor work they have more opportunity to select all of the relevant course work and become better trained. So, alumni, keep up the good work of getting the word out that geography is a good choice! Thanks from all of us who continue to do our best to send you well trained professional geographers to fill the increasing employment opportunities.

Graduate Program Coordinator's Column

Dr. Fred M. Shelley



The recently concluded 1999-2000 academic year was a pivotal year in the history of graduate education in Geography at SWT. We graduated our first two doctoral students, Lisa DeChano and Todd Votteler, and both have obtained excellent jobs. The M.S. program was approved and is already attracting students. The Master of Applied Geography program continued its high level of energy and productivity, with a total of 35 students graduating in 1999-2000. Six of these graduates have moved into doctoral programs at SWT, Arizona State, Kansas, LSU, and Kentucky.

The 2000-2001 academic year promises to be even better! We have brought in five new doctoral students, with at least three more planning to arrive in January. About 35 new MAG and MS students have also joined the program. Our new graduate students join us from Taiwan, Brazil, California, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Kentucky, South Carolina, and many other places throughout Texas and across the United States. We are very pleased that so many excellent students have selected SWT as the graduate school in which to pursue their graduate degrees. The energy and high spirits of our new graduate students are evident to everyone in the Department every day!

The theme of this academic year in the Department is “Review and Showcase.” In conjunction with this theme, several important efforts have been initiated. We are currently working on our Academic Program Review. We are also preparing for the Coordinating Board's upcoming five-year review of our Ph.D. programs in environmental geography and geographic education, and we are beginning to prepare a proposal to offer the Ph.D. in Geographic Information Science. We hope that students will be able to enroll in this exciting new program in 2002. All of these efforts will give us the opportunity to review and showcase our Department's many achievements of the past several years.

Even more importantly, these reviews and initiatives will provide us with direction for further improvement of our graduate programs. Our efforts at the graduate level and throughout the Department will be directed not only to the successful review and showcasing of our current and proposed programs, but also to how these programs can help us to enhance the national and international recognition of our Department and to reinforce the importance of geography to twenty-first century American and global society.

Late in the fourth quarter of a Super Bowl a number of years ago, with the Dallas Cowboys leading comfortably, a journalist asked legendary coach Tom Landry how he planned to celebrate the Cowboys' impending victory. “I'll take my wife out to dinner tonight,” replied Landry, “and tomorrow morning I'll be in my office reviewing the game films to prepare for next season.” Landry's comments are quite fitting. We in the Department of Geography have much to celebrate given the achievements of this past year. Yet not even for a moment can we let our recent successes allow ourselves to become complacent. We have done much, but we have much more to do. Let us all work together to make Southwest Texas State University into a world-recognized center for teaching, scholarship, and service in geography. As Graduate Program Coordinator, I welcome suggestions from current and former students and from the professional geography community that will help us reach our goal of international recognition for excellence in our beloved discipline. With your help, its achievement is within our grasp.

Scholarships and Awards Totaling Over \$17,000 Distributed at Alumni Reunion

Dr. Pam Showalter

The Scholarships and Awards Committee (Showalter [chair], Macey, and Earl) is pleased to announce that a total of 25 students were awarded scholarships, and 21 awards were presented to 18 students during the Alumni Reunion. Scholarship support for our students now amounts to \$14,200, while the value of the awards distributed (in cash or equivalent) exceeds \$3000. The Committee wishes to express its gratitude to those individuals and organizations generously sponsoring scholarships and awards, and extends its congratulations to all the winners.

Scholarship winners are:

Dave Taylor-The Bruce Lee Augustin Undergraduate Geography Scholarship
 Jeff Cook-The George D. Battle Memorial Scholarship Supporting Research in Climatology
 or Coastal Geography
 Cynthia Castle-The A.E. and Alvina Beckworth Scholarship in Geography
 Linda Prosperie-The Blanchard Scholarship
 Jennifer Rice-The Frank and Ivy Boehm Geography Scholarship
 Yongxia Skadberg-The Four Brothers Scholarship
 Ginger Schmid-The Ray and Marian Butler Scholarship
 April Burkett-The Peggy Steele Clay Outstanding Pre-Service Teacher in Geography Scholarship to Support Student Teaching
 Allison Brumfield-The Richard A. Earl Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Scholarship
 Lene' Griego-The B.J. Eyton Undergraduate AAG Travel Scholarship
 Gina Scanio-The Hilmar W. and Alta R. Hageman Family Endowed Scholarship
 Robin Berry and Mario Muta, Jr.- The Allen D. Hellman Scholarship in Geography and Planning
 Forrest Wilkerson-The Hodges Padilla Dissertation Research Scholarship
 Rebecca Beard-The Donna Rankin Jeffries Undergraduate Scholarship in Geography and Planning
 Naoshi Amakawa-The Ross Kimmel Jr. Undergraduate Scholarship in Nature and Heritage Tourism
 Stephanie Garcia-The Amita Malwade Graduate Scholarship in Human Geography
 Matthew Vaughn-The Joe and Jerry Moore Scholarship in Water Resources
 Jennifer Allison-The Martha Sue Baker Morrow Scholarship
 Cathryn Anderson-The Natural Hazards Scholarship
 Nancy Middlebrook-The Alice Rechlin Perkins Scholarship
 Rachael Rosenblad-The Phillip A. Staskus Undergraduate Geography Scholarship
 Ron Stephenson-The Roy H. Touchstone Graduate Scholarship in Nature and Heritage Tourism
 Donna Hessong-The Adriana Samantha Visser Memorial Scholarship
 Dina Marie Zamarripa-The Irene L. Wahl Geography Scholarship
 Lydia Bean-The Mao-Geng Zhan Scholarship



Award winners (Undergraduate-UG; Graduate-G) are:

Wade Martyn (UG) and Arwen Vaughn (G)-ESRI Award for Excellence in GIS
 April Dzierzanowski-Geography and Planning Outstanding Senior Award
 Ron Hagelman-Geography and Planning Outstanding Graduate Student Award
 Jose Davila (UG) and Terry Booth (G)-Harcourt Outstanding Nontraditional Geography Student Award
 David Viertel (UG) and Rodney Organ (G)-MAPSCO Quality Award in Geography
 April Dzierzanowski-NCGE/AAG Outstanding Senior Award
 Ron Hagelman-Prentice-Hall Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award
 Linda Prosperie-Prentice-Hall Outstanding Graduate Student Publication Award
 Stephanie Byrnes (UG) and Marc LeFebre (G)-Rand McNally Award for Academic Achievement
 Rebecca Beard (UG) and Wendy Bigler (G)-Elizabeth Sterry Award
 Lydia Carbuccia (UG) and Matthew Ramspott (G)-John Wiley Award for Excellence in Geography
 Melissa Chesser (UG), Wendy Bigler (G), Vanessa Hudson-Eckert (G), and Nancy Middlebrook (G)-Award for Outstanding Service to the
 Department of Geography



*Mark your calendars! The Seventh Annual Alumni Reunion
and Student Celebration is on April 21, 2001*

Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration- BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!

Dr. Fred M. Shelley



More than 400 alumni, students, faculty, staff, family members, and friends of the Department attended the sixth annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration on April 29, 2000.

A highlight of this year's Reunion was the presentation of 21 new scholarships to deserving graduate and undergraduate students. More than \$10,000 in scholarships and awards were presented. Even more meaningful was the fact that several persons who have been honored with these scholarships

attended the reunion. Among the attendees were the family of the late Philip Staskus of Houston; Mr. and Mrs. Ray Butler of Omaha, Nebraska; Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Beckworth of Bartlesville, Oklahoma; Dr. Alice Rechlin Perkins and her husband Don of Arlington, Virginia; and Ms. Peggy Steele Clay and her husband James of Washington, DC. Ms. Clay, who is Teacher in Residence at the National Geographic Society, and her associate Todd Gipstein gave a very interesting and informative presentation about educational and outreach programs at the Society.

The Outstanding Alumni Award was presented to Mark Carter (B.A., 1992; M.A. Geo, 1994). We are fortunate that Mark has joined the Department on a full-time basis as Assistant to the Chair, Internship Coordinator, and lecturer in land use planning and quantitative methods. A detailed biography of Mark appears on page 7 in this issue.



Following the formal program, attendees moved to the Evans Liberal Arts Building for workshops and tours. Highlights included the annual job networking workshops, Dr. Richard Dixon's presentation on 100 years of hurricanes in Texas, and many other discussions and activities.

It was a privilege to work with outstanding faculty colleagues, staff members, and students on the Alumni Reunion Committee. Let me especially thank Angelika Lester, Joan Pasquali, and Judy Behrens for their major contributions, despite the extraordinary pressures associated with their own positions as vital members of the Department staff. The Committee did an outstanding job and I congratulate them for their hard work in making the 6th Reunion the best ever!

It will be a hard act to follow, but the 7th annual Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration promises to be even better!! It will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2001. Mark your calendars, and let me extend a special invitation to all of you and your families to plan to renew and extend your ties with past, present, and future members of the SWT Geography family!



Alumni Bits

Compiled by Dr. Fred M. Shelley

Joy Adams (MAG, 1999) is beginning her second year in the Ph.D. program in Geography at the University of Texas at Austin. She is focusing on cultural and ethnic geography under the supervision of Dr. Terry Jordan. At the Pittsburgh AAG meeting, Joy was elected as Student Representative to the Board of Directors of the AAG's American Ethnic Geography Specialty Group.

Karin Ascot (MAG, 1997) continues to work as a freelance technical German translator. She is Conservation Chair of the Austin Regional Group of the Sierra Club, and also serves on the Executive Committee.

Mary Catherine (Cate) Ball (MAG, 1998) recently began working as a city planner for the Town of South Padre Island.

Shannon Cummins (B.A., 1998) began the master's program in Geography at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.

Barbara J. Harrison Condon (B.S., 1978) is Hospice Chaplain for District Seven Home Health Hospice in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Mark Garcia (B.A., 1997) is teaching high school geography in Los Colinas, north of Dallas.

Michele Haussmann (B.A., 19xx) is a Principal Planner at Drenner & Stuart, L.L.P. law firm, which specializes in land use law and real estate transactions. She manages land development projects, mainly working on the zoning, subdivision and site plan process in Austin, Rollingwood, Westlake and Georgetown. They plan to work in the city of Round Rock and San Marcos in the near future.

Rebekah Hoffaker (MAG, 19xx) completed work on a grant to produce a documentary style film on the work that the Environmental Protection Agency is doing along the United States-Mexico border. The video entitled "Border Visions" describes the Border XXI

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Alumni Bits

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Program and the work that the EPA is doing binationally with Mexico. Border XXI is an innovative binational effort which brings together the diverse U.S. and Mexican federal agencies responsible for the shared border regions to work cooperatively to protect human health and environment on the border.

James Hudson (B.A., 1994) has joined the Audit Office of the Texas Department of Transportation in Austin.

Chris Looney (B.A., 1998) works as a planner for the City of San Angelo, Texas. He was recently honored with a Georgie Award for "Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Comedy" for his performance in the community theater production of "The Amorous Ambassador" — written by a visiting British author who lives in Kerrville. He writes, "Recent thyroid surgery (cancer scare) had an excellent and benign outcome and I want to thank all those who prayed for me. My wonderful family, friends and beautiful girlfriend were behind me throughout."

Stacie Mitchell-Kramps (MAG, 1997) is teaching World Geography at Smithson Valley High School in Spring Branch, Texas.

Randall Payne (BS, 1995) is Field Representative for Vibra-Tech Engineering in Austin.

Michele Renee (BS, 19xx), formerly Michele Gratch, has been hired to teach global geography at the Eugene International High School in Eugene, Oregon. She reports that another SWT alum, **Bryan Fitzwater**, has also been hired to teach at the school!

Dean Rother (MAG, 1999) has recently shifted from being a Senior GIS Analyst to being a Programmer with the City of Austin. He continues to work with GIS, and maintains intranet and internet GIS's and develops GIS applications using Avenue and Visual Basic.

Dan Searle (BA, 1979) is now Claims Manager for United Parcel Service for South Texas. He has been with UPS since 1979. He writes that he "started as a porter while in school and worked my way through about every job around the company . . .

was an hourly unloader, clerk, then driver, promoted into management as an Industrial Engineering supervisor in 1984, became Industrial Engineering manager in 1988, Operations manager in Austin in 1989, Employee Relations Manager for South Texas in 91." In 1993 he became Training Manager for south Texas and then went on special assignment to DFW to plan and open a new regional air hub for a year until it was online. He then became an Area Sales Manager for 4 years until starting his present assignment. He lives in the country outside San Marcos with his son, two wiener dogs, and five cats. He states: "My education served me well, especially in IE as I started out in Building and Facilities and my location analysis proved very helpful."

Rebecca Sheehan (MAG, 2000) has entered the Ph.D. program in Geography at Louisiana State University. She will be studying cultural geography under the supervision of Dr. Dydia DeLyser and former SWT professor Dr. Craig Colten. At the Pittsburgh AAG meeting, Rebecca was elected as Student Representative to the Board of Directors of the AAG's Qualitative Methods Specialty Group. In April, Rebecca fulfilled a lifelong dream by completing the Boston Marathon.

Fran Sherpa (MAG, 1998) is teaching geography courses at the University of Texas—Permian Basin in Midland.

Scott Walker (MAG, 1997) is teaching Education Technology and Science Education graduate courses, including Introduction to GIS for Teachers, at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. He is also working on a doctorate in Science Education through Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia. He and his wife Kelly are expecting a baby boy in February. He was recently appointed as a commissioner to the San Marcos Planning and Zoning Commission. He just completed a co-authored book chapter on women in ecotourism with authors from California, Greece, and Nepal and another book chapter on women in ecotourism in El Cielo, Mexico for a Mexican book publisher.

Jessica Woods (MAG, 2000) works for the City of Austin in the Water Conservation division. On June 28, she gave birth to a healthy baby boy, Owen Orion, who weighed in at 8 pounds, 14 ounces and is growing like a weed!

Send Us Your Business Cards!!!

The Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education is in the process of updating *Careers/Jobs in Geography*, a business card directory of recent (and not-so-recent) graduates of the SWT Department of Geography. This directory is used as a recruiting tool to show perspective students what a wide variety of career opportunities exist for geography majors, in addition to providing a means for faculty and students to stay in contact. If you have not given us your most recent business card, please send it to us as soon as possible to: Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, Southwest Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666. If you have any questions or wish to request an updated copy of the directory when it is completed, please call us at (512) 245-1823 or e-mail <jb42@swt.edu>.

Honorary Doctorate continued

Grosvenor also serves as director of trustees for the Conservation Fund, Chevy Chase Bank, Ethyl Corp., the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, Wildlife Conservation Society, National Wildflower Research Center and many others. He is chairman emeritus of the Foundation Board of the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf, former vice chairman for the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors and former member of the President's Commission on Environmental Quality.

Grosvenor received his honorary doctorate in conjunction with SWT's granting of its first two Ph.D.s in the school's 100-year history. The doctorates in geography were awarded to Lisa DeChano and Todd Votteler.

GeoNews is a semiannual publication of the Southwest Texas State University Department of Geography

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Faculty News

Welcome to the Geography Family!

The Department of Geography extends a warm welcome to our newest faculty members!!!



Dr. George Malanson joins our department as a Professor. He comes to us from the position of Geography Department Chair at the University of Iowa, where he was on

the faculty for 15 years. He received his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1983, with prior education at the University of Utah, Georgia State, and Williams College. Dr. Malanson's teaching and research interests are in environmental geography, with specialization in biogeography. His work is most focused on questions about the effect of landscape patterns on plant community diversity. In addition to fieldwork, Dr. Malanson uses computer simulation models to explore the relations of pattern and process in biogeography; he will be establishing a computational lab as part of the Biogeography/Geomorphology lab in the department. He is teaching Physical Environment this semester, and he will add courses on wetlands, conservation, and geocomputation. Dr. Malanson's research record includes a book (*Riparian Landscapes*; Cambridge University Press, 1993) and dozens of articles. He has garnered over \$1 million in grants and brings over \$150,000 to SWT over the next 3 years. He also serves on the editorial board of 4 journals, including the environmental sciences section of the newly restructured *AAG Annals*. Dr. Malanson, his wife Mary, and their son Joseph live in Austin.



Dr. Michael Solem, who joins our department as an Assistant Professor, completed his doctoral dissertation (*The Diffusion, Adoption, and Effects of Instruction with the Internet in U.S.*

College Geography) at the University of Colorado, Boulder. In August of 2000, the National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) presented Dr. Solem with its Doctoral Dissertation Award. In this research, he identified factors affecting the adoption and implementation of Internet-based teaching among geography faculty members. Dr. Solem's research interests at SWT continue to focus on the interplay between computer technology and educational purpose and practice in geography. Dr. Solem is currently developing Web-based correspondence courses for our MAG – Geographic Education major, and next year he hopes to launch a Web-based curriculum project that will engage students and faculty members internationally in collaborative, problem-solving exercises. In his personal time, Dr. Solem enjoys music, film, contemporary art, and the occasional martini.



Born a Yankee in Bristol, Connecticut, **Mr. Mark Carter** got to Texas as fast as he could after traveling the world for six years with the U.S. Navy, then working a five-year stint at ESPN, the Cable Sports Network. Mentored by some of the finest Geographers in the land, Mr. Carter received a Bachelor of Science Degree ('92), then a Masters of Applied Geography ('94) from none other than our own Southwest Texas University Department of Geography. After graduation, Mr. Carter spent the next six years at the SWT Media Services Department working with faculty to implement technology in their classrooms, while also helping to found and manage the annual Geography Alumni Reunion and Student Celebrations. Finally, Mr. Carter received the call to return to the Department of Geography, joining the faculty for the Fall 2000 semester. Excited to be working with students again, Mr. Carter is often heard to remark: "Its good to be home." Mr. Carter and his wife Carol live in San Marcos.



Dr. V.K. Boken joins our department as a Visiting Assistant Professor. He moved from University of North Dakota where he taught for one year at the department of

Geography. Dr. Boken completed his Ph.D. in 1999 at the University of Manitoba, Canada. Before moving to Canada, he worked in India for the Department of Space (Regional Remote Sensing Center), National Remote Sensing Agency, and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics. He holds a B.A. in Agricultural Engineering from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, India and an M.A. in Agricultural Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand. While working in India, Dr. Boken also earned an M.A. in Water Resources and Irrigation Engineering from University of Jodhpur. Dr. Boken teaches GIS, Remote Sensing, Quantitative Methods, and Cartography. His current research encompasses application of remote sensing and GIS techniques in crop yield and drought forecasting, satellite-data based vegetation indices, El-Niño effect on agriculture, and climate-change detection using pattern recognition techniques. Dr. Boken, his wife Sangeeta, and their children Astitva and Agrini live in San Marcos.

Visser Proposes to Bow Out as He Came In

Dr. Sent Visser



In 1978, I was hired by Richard Boehm to teach cultural geography, energy management, and environmental management, though my doctorate was in economic geography and quantitative methods.

No problem. I got to teach economic geography, statistics, and research design eventually, although I never did teach a course in my research specialty –

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Department News

News from the Lovell Center

Dr. David Butler
Director

The James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research had a very successful 1999-2000 academic year, with the highlight being the delivery of the Second Annual Lovell Lecture by Dr. Sally Ride, America's first woman in space, in February 2000. The Center also sponsored a plenary session on environmental change at the October 1999, SWAAG meeting in San Marcos, and the papers from that session are currently undergoing review for a special issue of the international journal *Physical Geography*. Special sessions on the great flood of 1998 were also organized and sponsored by Center Scholars. Center Scholars were active in delivering papers at the national meeting of the Association of American Geographers held in Pittsburgh, PA, in April 2000. Several Center Scholars have also had strong success in publishing papers from their environmental research during the past year.

Faculty changes occurred over the summer of 2000 that impacted the Lovell Center. We all wish the best to Dr. Craig Colten as he takes his new position in his old "stomping grounds" in Louisiana in the Department of Geography and Anthropology at LSU. We also welcome new Center Scholar Professor George Malanson, formerly of the Department of Geography at the University of Iowa. George brings expertise in landscape ecology, biogeography, and computer simulation modelling to our Center.

For the 2000-2001 academic year, the Lovell Center will sponsor monthly brown-bag lunches for interested Center Scholars and graduate students in environmental geography, at which current topics of interest, research ideas, and funding possibilities can be explored. Collaborative research efforts are also underway among several Center Scholars, ranging from grant proposal submission to the writing of research articles. During the past year several Ph.D. students in Environmental Geography have published papers and book reviews, presented award-winning papers at regional and national meetings, and continue to add vibrancy to the Center and the department's environmental geography program.

We are very excited to announce that the Third Annual Lovell Lecture will be delivered by Mr. Jack Dangermond, CEO of ESRI. Plan to join us in the Alkek Teaching Theater on December 18, 2000! The time of the lecture will be announced later, so be sure to keep in touch with the department and the Lovell Center for the latest information about this sure-to-be exciting event!

3rd Annual Lovell Lecture to Feature Jack Dangermond of ESRI

On Monday evening, December 18, the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research will present its Third Annual Lovell Lecture. This year's lecture will be delivered by Mr. Jack Dangermond, CEO of ESRI, of Redlands, California. ESRI is the country's leading developer of GIS and mapping software. Mr. Dangermond is well known as a dynamic and fascinating speaker, and is quoted on the ESRI website as noting that "Knowing where things are and why is essential to rational decision making". Plan to join us in the Alkek Teaching Theater on December 18! The time of the lecture will be announced later. For more information about the Lovell Center or the Lovell Lecture Series, please visit the Geography Department website at www.geo.swt.edu or email geography@swt.edu.

Young continued

geography background to aid him in building and operating numerous restaurants, including Chuy's, Hula Hut, and Shady Grove. He says that his study of geography has helped him in the business world because it gave him insight into markets, locations, and human nature.

As a final question, I asked Mr. Young why he felt geography was important. His thoughtful reply was inspiring: "The basic survival of the human race depends on the wisdom rooted in the study of geography." And thanks to Mr. Young's generous pledge to our department, students who may not have had the opportunity otherwise will be able to gain some of that precious wisdom with an excellent SWT Geography education!

Texas Watch News

Eric Mendelman
Program Coordinator

As Texas Watch's first full year in the SWT Department of Geography winds down, a string of successes can be reported. The goal for the first year was to transfer the entire Texas Watch program from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to the SWT Department of Geography. In pursuit of this goal, the Texas Watch staff established by August 2000 the Texas Watch web page, data viewer, newsletter, training and certification program, volunteer response and coordination of training, quality assurance documents, and administrative and office systems.

The team successfully faced the intense challenge of starting a program from the ground up while providing on-going service to the public and to the environment. This meant coordinating and participating in special events such as regional meetings, a statewide partner meeting, the first statewide Earth Day monitoring event, university and departmental events, and a 3-day staff work session to plan the future growth and direction of the program.

As Texas Watch moves into this year, it will work to expand its emphasis on environmental education as it strengthens its partnerships with groups like Project del Rio and Cyberways and Waterways. Stay tuned for several meaningful and exciting events: Statewide Partner Meeting, October 5, 2000; Statewide Meeting of the Monitors, March 30-31; and Earth Day 2001 in April 2001.

Credit for the success of the start up goes largely to the efforts of full-time Texas Watch staff members Jason Pinchback and Allison Moore, and graduate assistants Laura Brock, Michelle Shuey, Kristi Westphal and Mohini Dirisina. Thanks to Dr. Estaville's steadfast support, Texas Watch has enjoyed the support of several Departmental staff: Angelika Lester, Dan Hemenway, Xinnong Zhou, Yongxia Skadburg, and Shaun Skipper. Several talented and hardworking students have joined the team in the last three months to assist with this year's initiatives: Amanda Moon, Alex Marsh, Jeff Cook, and Scott Gardner.

Joe Moore, Texas Watch Program Director, and Rich Earl, Texas Watch Academic Advisor, have provided wisdom and experience to ensure the program adheres to the goals and mission of the Geography Department and stays true to its mission as a meaningful, effective environmental program.

Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard!

Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism

Dr. Jim Kimmel

Director

Staff and students of the Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism have been working with Bandera County, Texas, since February, 2000 to assist with development of appropriate nature and heritage tourism. This fall we will complete an interpretive geography of the county, which will be published by the Bandera County Convention and Visitors' Bureau and will also be set up as an Internet site.

Allison Brumfield completed an internship with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in San Antonio and Aaron Buck continues with his internship with the National Park Service at Grand Teton National Park. Aaron reports that he has had a hot, smoky summer.

We are focusing research efforts on the Internet, which has quickly become the most important means of providing information about nature and heritage

tourism activities and attractions. Both of the Skadbergs are working on Internet issues for their Ph.D. dissertations, while their new son Joshua (born in June) supervises their work.

We have not become totally virtual, however. Ron Stephenson is looking to head out toward the Caribbean reefs and Neil Cadle will be rolling on the Mississippi River. Both of these Ph.D. dissertations will focus on interpretation and resource protection. Marc LeFebre will soon finish his thesis on river festivals in North Carolina, Kansas, and Texas. This fall we will start work on an interpretive geography of the San Marcos River. Of course, we continue our dedication to participant-observation research with Scott Gardner hiking in Montana, Robert Cline scuba diving in Indonesia, and yours truly sea kayaking in British Columbia. Tough, but we are up to the task!

GTU Plans for Busy Year

Dr. Richard Earl

GTU Faculty Sponsor

The SWT Geography chapter of Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international geography honor society, has a full schedule of events planned for the 2000-2001 academic year. Chapter President Matt Reeb with assistance from Vice President Allison Brumfield, Secretary Sarah Cummings, and Treasurer Nancy Middlebrook presented the proposed schedule at the inaugural meeting on September 7. Among the activities announced include an oceanography field trip on Friday October 13, a field trip to the Fall Creek Vineyards, support for the Alumni Reunion and Student Celebration (Saturday April 21, 2001) and sponsorship of a noontime geography brownbag series "Geographers' Journeys" that will highlight recent travels by SWT faculty and grad students.

This past year GTU added a second scholarship for \$500 that was awarded to Allison Brumfield on the basis of academic performance and service to the department. The GTU service award was presented to Sarah Cummings for her numerous contributions to our chapter and the

department. GTU alumni who would like to contribute to the GTU scholarship fund may do so by sending their tax-deductible contribution to the "GTU Scholarship Fund" c/o Angelika Lester, Department of Geography, SWT, San Marcos, TX 78666.

To keep abreast of current GTU activities or to join the GTU alumni chapter and receive the *Geographical Bulletin* and the *Omega Omega News* alumni newsletter for only \$10/1 year, \$17/2 years or \$24/3 years, visit the GTU website accessible through the "Student Organizations" button on the Geography Department website at www.geo.swt.edu or email Richard Earl, GTU Faculty Sponsor, at RE02@swt.edu.



NAEP News

Mark L. Carter

NAEP Faculty Sponsor

The SWT Chapter of the National Association of Environmental Professionals enjoyed a busy year of environmentally oriented activities and events. Guided by student leaders Maggie Patay, Chris Clary, Scott Gardener, Dave Taylor, Amanda Romero, Becky Beard, Flora Caylor, and Shaun Robertson, NAEP members created an innovative partnership with the SWT Inter-Fraternal Council (IFC) to purchase, place and maintain five recycling bins on campus this past year. NAEP manages contracts with the IFC which provide assistance from fraternal groups to empty the recycling bins and deliver recyclable material to Green Guy Recycling in San Marcos. NAEP members also recently participated in the clean up of Sessom Creek Canyon. In cooperation with the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance and other local groups, NAEP students collected trash and debris from this newly acquired San Marcos public green space. NAEP member Scott Gardener explained: "We hauled over twelve truck loads of stuff out. It really improved the property."

NAEP recognized the 30th Earth Day on April 22, 2000 by hosting a celebration and educational event at Sewell Park in association with Earth First!, Texas Watch, the San Marcos River Foundation, the SWT Student Wildlife Organization and other student and local groups concerned with protecting the earth's environment. "The mini-landfill demonstration model, the rain and run-off simulator and other educational displays attracted attention as did the live music, food and fun," according to Shaun Robertson, an actively involved NAEP member. Finally this past year, the NAEP members assisted in establishing the Geography Department as a test site for using a special, easy-to-recycle paper in the department's photocopying machines. Hopefully this test will serve as an environmentally-friendly example that other SWT departments can follow.

The NAEP members send their best wishes to Maggie Patay, SWT NAEP Chapter President 1999-2000 and Geography Alumna, who is currently serving in Tanzania, Africa as a Peace Corps volunteer. Good luck Maggie!

Upcoming Events

Grosvenor Center to Host International Symposium

Dr. Richard Boehm
Director

Under the leadership of Dr. Richard G. Boehm, the Gilbert M. Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education will sponsor the *International Symposium on Geographic Education: Theory, Research, and Practice* at Southwest Texas State University in May 2001. In conjunction with the International Geographical Union-Commission on Geographic Education, the Grosvenor Center will look to repeat the success of its May 1999 international conference by attracting visitors from over a dozen countries outside of North America, in addition to many scholars from Canada, Mexico, and the United States. This symposium will be held on May 24-27, with most sessions being conducted at the LBJ Student Center. The focus of the upcoming symposium will be issues involved in teaching geography in higher education, as well as grades K-12. Papers, organized panel sessions, and plenary sessions will include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

Higher Education

Issues in Teaching Introductory Courses
Innovative Teaching in Topical or Regional Geography Courses
Uses of Technology in Teaching and Research
Teaching Methods
Curriculum
Assessment and Accountability
Distance Education

K-12 (School) Geography

Developmental Learning
Technology and Teaching
Curriculum
Assessment
Textbooks and Learning Materials
Advanced Placement
Teaching Methods
Geography and the Social Studies

In conjunction with the symposium, a variety of local field excursions will be offered to conference participants. Additionally, a five-day post-conference field excursion to Mexico has been planned, led by Dr. David Stea and Dr. James Petersen. This trip will include visits to Nuevo Laredo, Bustamante, Monterrey, Saltillo, Cola De'Caballo, and Ciudad Victoria, with a focus on the cultural, political, historical, industrial, and environmental geography of these locations.

All Department of Geography alumni, along with current geography faculty and students, and other interested parties are invited to participate in the May 2001 *International Symposium on Geographic Education*. For more information and registration materials, contact the Grosvenor Center for Geographic Education, Southwest Texas State University, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, Texas 78666. Voice: (512) 245-1823, Fax: (512) 245-1653, E-mail: jb42@swt.edu, Web: <http://www.geo.swt.edu/grosvenor/>.

Travel and Study Abroad: Geography of Europe, SS II 2001

Dr. Richard A. Earl

In July 2001, the Department of Geography at Southwest Texas State University will conduct its third biennial Geography of Europe field excursion. Participants in the class will receive 6 hours of graduate credit: GEO 5308 Regional Field Studies and GEO 5395 Special Problems and Topics: Geography of Europe. These courses can be used toward the requirements for the SWT Department of Geography Masters of Applied Geography degree programs. Leading the trip will be Professors Fred Day and Richard Earl, both regular faculty of the SWT Department of Geography. The 26-day class, departing from Houston International Airport on Saturday July 6, 2001, will provide on-site geographic analysis of the

geography of Europe and classroom lecture and discussion at Franklin College, Lugano, Switzerland.

Students will learn about the variety of physical and cultural phenomena in the European region. A theme of the class will be the "imperial city." We will begin our tour in the first great imperial city, Rome, and conclude in one of the great imperial cities of the colonial era, Paris. After three nights and two days in Rome we will travel by private motorcoach to Pisa and Florence, great Renaissance cities along the Arno River. We will spend two nights and one day in Florence and will see both the geographically significant features and the world famous art works of that city such as the Duomo, the David statue, and the Uffizi Galleria. Next, we will travel by

motorcoach to Venice for two nights and a full day of exploring that fascinating, historic city. From Venice we will travel to Lugano, Switzerland in the spectacular Swiss-Italian Lake District. We will stay at Franklin College, a private American college, for 12 days. Some days we will have formal class lectures on the Geography of Europe and will work on individual research projects involving the geography of Europe. We will stay on campus in spacious dorms with cooking facilities. On other days we will go on day trips to spectacular sites such as St. Moritz, Valle Verzasca (featured in the James Bond movie *GoldenEye*), the military fortress town of Belanzona, and to Milan to see its wonders from the fashion district to Leonardo's *Last Supper*. We will take Eurail to Zurich, the financial center, for an afternoon and night and continue on to three nights and two days in Paris.

Both course instructors are veteran

Curriculum News

M.S. Program Approved!

Dr. Fred M. Shelley

In August, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the Department's initiative to offer the Master of Science (M.S.) degree. The proposal goes into effect in the current 2000-2001 academic year. Approximately 15 graduate students have entered or transferred into the M.S. program, and we expect that our first M.S. student will graduate this December.

The M.S. program is designed especially for those students who wish to enter Ph.D. programs at SWT or elsewhere, or who wish to pursue careers involving teaching and research. The M.S. curriculum will require 30 hours of course work, including a thesis. M.S. students are also eligible to take Ph.D. courses.

Detailed information about the M.S. program is available from the Graduate Program Coordinator's office or from the Department's website at www.geo.swt.edu.

Editor's Note continued

of students or the development of educational programs or the organization of annual reports and degree outlines, all of us are working toward a common goal of helping students learn about the world around us. I am proud to be working for this department. I am proud of the advancements this department has made through the years. I am proud of the numbers of majors we have. I am proud to be a member of the SWT Geography Department family!

2000 SWT Department of Geography, Southwest Texas State University, a member of the Texas State University System, is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.

New SWT Geography GIS Certificate Program

Dr. Lawrence Estaville

The SWT Department of Geography has proposed a GIS Certificate Program to begin in January 2001. The university has approved the program, and the department awaits approval this fall from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. The GIS Certificate Program is open to current undergraduate and graduate Geography students, SWT Geography alumni, current students in other SWT departments, and professionals in both public agencies and private firms. A major strength of this GIS Certificate Program is that it is offered through a university department nationally recognized for its GIS program. A GIS Certificate from SWT Geography should be very useful to

professionals who use GIS in their work.

The GIS Certificate Program is comprised of a sequence of four undergraduate GIS courses: GEO 2426, Fundamentals of GIS; GEO 2427, Management and Implementation of GIS; GEO 4426, Advanced Geographic Information Systems; and GEO 4427, Advanced Geographic Information Systems II. The certificate will be awarded to students who complete all of the requirements of the GIS courses with an overall GPA of 2.5 or better. Past credit for GIS courses at SWT and other universities may be applied to the 16-hour requirement. SWT Geography alumni should be aware that our GIS courses and descriptions have been reconfigured: the new GEO 2426 and GEO 2427 GIS courses are the old GEO 4426 and GEO 4427 GIS courses, and the current GEO 4426 and GEO 4427 GIS courses are new ones recently added to the undergraduate curriculum.

For more information about SWT Geography's GIS Certificate Program, please contact Dr. Brock Brown at bb09@swt.edu or 512-245-3202.

NexTech Students Visit SWT

Dr. Lawrence Estaville

NexTech: A National Summit of Young Technology Leaders sent 64 of the most outstanding high school students from across the nation to visit the SWT Geography Department this past July. These exceptionally talented students attended workshops in GIS (led by Dr. Debbie Bryan and assisted by Jessica Fox and Bill Monfredo), remote sensing (led by Dr. Ron Eyton and assisted by Linda Prosperie and April Burkett), and atmospheric science (led by Dr. Rich Dixon and assisted by Christine Belviso and Wade Martyn). The students were very impressed with what modern Geography is about and with SWT Geography's computer laboratory facilities and professors. Professor Vicki West of the College of Business organized the visit to SWT of these and other outstanding high school students who are interested in high technology.

Distance Learning Program

Dr. Michael Solem

The SWT Master's degree in Applied Geography is the first graduate geography degree program in the country that offers students the choice to take many of the courses off campus or at a distance. Our program is intended for students who wish to acquire graduate-level education and training in the field of geographic education.

Currently, students can enroll in GEO 5395 Contemporary Issues in Geographic Education through Correspondence and Extension Studies. Beginning in Spring 2001, three additional courses will be available to students at a distance: GEO 5340 Geography for Teachers, GEO 5342 Theory and Methods of Geographic Education, and GEO 5344 Seminar in Geographic Curriculum.

Questions about the program should be directed to the Project Coordinators, Dr. Brock Brown (bb09@swt.edu) and Dr. Michael Solem (michael.solem@swt.edu).

Across the U.S.

A Geographic Foray into the Four Corners

Nancy Middlebrook and Dr. James Petersen

In July, fifteen Americans from Southwest Texas State University and twenty Germans from the University of Hannover, Germany covered 2,701 miles through New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona as the group studied Southwestern geography. SWT geography professor James Petersen and Hannover geography professor Rainer Duttman led the intrepid travelers through some of the most spectacular scenery on the planet.

We took walking tours of downtown Santa Fe, Taos, and the Taos Pueblo, New Mexico. Near Wheeler Peak, New Mexico's highest mountain, we took a ski lift for high elevation panoramic views of landforms and mountain environments. We viewed the deep Rio Grande Gorge from the US Highway 64 river bridge, learning about the Rio Grande Rift Zone. In Alamosa, Colorado, our German friends got an introduction to field studies in a Wal-Mart store – examining product placement while comparing regional prices and product availability.

Great Sand Dunes National Monument presented an intimidating seven hundred foot high sand pile. We gained first hand knowledge of the importance of wind, to both eolian processes and cardiovascular fitness. In Durango, we experienced a spatial allocation lesson when the bus got stuck in a tight corner at our motel, which was miles from the nearest (affordable) eatery. We were starving, and dinner, like the tow truck, came late. At Mesa Verde, we toured Cliff Palace, giving attention to human-environmental interactions and cultural landscapes of the past, present, and future. We toured the backroads of the Navajo Tribal Park in Monument Valley, Utah, to view the sandstone buttes and mesas with Navajo guide, Roy Lee Jackson, a long-time friend of Dr. Petersen's. We were treated to a special Navajo chant recital in a natural bedrock amphitheater; the sounds of the Navajo chants, drums, and flute were echoing off the sandstone walls into the wilderness.

We spent three days in the Moab area discussing landforms, geology, Edward Abbey's ecoactivism, and community planning by the early Mormon settlers; and hiked through Canyonlands National Park, Dead Horse Point, and Arches National Park. In Bryce Canyon National Park, we studied the vegetation, the geology, and examined its amazing rock spires, called hoodoos, which were everywhere. . . . "here a hoodoo, there a hoodoo, everywhere a hoodoo!" In Zion National Park, we trudged in midstream up the frigid Virgin River to observe the gorge and the "hanging gardens." After the cold water had thoroughly numbed our toes, the hike through the narrow towering canyon was pleasant.

At Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell, we discussed the ecological concerns and environmental change controversies surrounding dam development and maintenance. Water use in arid lands was a key topic. When we arrived at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, it was cloudy and raining. Being the fearless geographers that we are, we pressed on and were treated to glorious vistas when the rain cleared. It is humbling to look at the ancient Vishnu Schist at the canyon bottom, "the basement of the world," and to reflect on the difficulties of the first expedition down the river by John Wesley Powell's survey team. Near Flagstaff, we examined the hummocky basaltic lava fields of Sunset Crater National Monument and visited the remains of an Anasazi village at Wupatki National Monument, buried by volcanic eruptions. Closing our "Great Circle Route" through the Four Corners, and back to Albuquerque, we hiked in Petrified Forest National Park and observed the Painted Desert panorama from the cool of the bus, with a few "arm-waving"/photo stops. For our last official field experience together, we crawled down and through a classic lava tube in El Malpais National Monument.

We had a final gathering with our German friends in Albuquerque before we parted company. In a short amount of time, we had learned a lot about the Four Corners Region and that our interest in geography provided us with a common bond. During this trip some lasting international friendships were established. On our journey together, we passed within sight of the four sacred cornerstone mountains of the Navajo: Blanco Peak, Mt.

Hesperus, Humphreys Peak, and Mt. Taylor or Tsodzil. It is fitting to summarize our trip with the Navajo song of Dawn Boy: "In the house of long life, there I wander. In the house of happiness, there I wander. Beauty before me, with it I wander. Beauty behind me, with it I wander. Beauty below me, with it I wander. Beauty above me, with it I wander. Beauty all around me, with it I wander. In old age traveling, with it I wander. On the beautiful trail I am, with it I wander."



The walk up the Virgin River at Zion National Park.

Research and Applications Workshop in Boulder, Co

Dr. Denise Blanchard-Boehm

Denise Blanchard-Boehm, represented the Department of Geography at the 25th Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop, July 9-12, 2000. The Keynote Address, "NOAA's Role in U.S. Hazard Mitigation" was given by Scott Gudes, Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere at NOAA. Its strategic plan focuses on assessment and prediction of environmental change and on wise stewardship of the nation's natural resources. Gudes explained that much of what NOAA does is directly related to natural disaster impact prevention through research, operational products, and public education and outreach. Gudes ended his talk with NOAA's plans for the 21st century, which include continuing improvement of technologies needed to assess and predict environmental change. NOAA will continue to invest in research, increase flexibility in federal scientific programs, and will keep focused on

Around the World.

Yucatan 2000

Dr. Byron Augustin

On June 9, 2000, my wife Rebecca and I departed for the Yucatan Peninsula with 30 bright-eyed and bushy-tailed SWT students for three weeks of study in Mexico. We landed in Cancun and were met by a driver and a 41-passenger, air-conditioned bus, which would serve as our major source of ground transportation in the days ahead. Within three hours, we were checking into the Hotel Meson del Marques in Valladolid, an 18th century hacienda which has been converted into one of the most comfortable getaways in Mexico. The owner, Mario Escalante Ruiz, made arrangements for us to use classroom space at the Preparatoria de Valladolid, one of the city's public schools. Classes met each morning from 9:00am until 12:00 noon. The school was located about one mile from the hotel, so the students were exposed to a wonder cross-section of life as they walked to the school each morning.

In the afternoons, students explored the city or went on field trips. One of the favorite field trips took students to the recently renovated Maya site of Ek Balam. One pyramid at Ek Balam is the largest ever discovered in the Yucatan. Less than one year ago, the tomb of Ukit Kan Lek Toc, the most famous king of Ek Balam, was discovered. Archaeologists are just now beginning to unravel the story of his life. There is speculation that, in the future, Ek Balam could be added to the list of Classic Maya cities.

After a week in Valladolid, the group moved to the Hotel Hacienda Chichen. The rooms at this hotel are the renovated cottages that served as the residences for the scientists from the Carnegie Institute while they restored the fabulous ruins of Chichen Itza. Few hotels in Mexico can match the Hacienda Chichen for gardens and ambiance. The students loved Chichen Itza! They crawled over the pyramids and walked to all of the major structures. El Castillo was their favorite, but the Ball Court and the Pyramid of the Warriors drew high reviews. After leaving Chichen Itza, the bus took us across the Serrita de Ticul, the highest elevation in the Yucatan (300 feet above sea level) and onto Uxmal.

Uxmal was one of the Classic cities of

Mayan culture and reached its peak between 600 and 900 AD. At Uxmal, we continued with an additional week of classes in an open-air palapa. Our home for that week was the Hacienda Uxmal, one of the true luxury hotels in the Yucatan. In addition to spending a day at the ruins of Uxmal, we also took a full-day field trip on the Ruta Puuc to the Maya cities of Kabah, Labna, and Sayil. The fearless leader of the Geography Department, Dr Lawrence Estaville, joined us in Uxmal and spent five days with our group. He endeared himself to the students when he added the "Chairman's Curve" to the scores of the final examination.

After Uxmal, we moved on to Merida, the capital of the State of Yucatan. It is a charming colonial city of more than one million residents. On Sunday, the students were treated to a cultural smorgasbord as the city center was converted into a lively environment of music, dance, and arts and crafts. A buggy ride down the Paseo de Montejo was enjoyed by all.

We stopped in Cancun on the way to Xcaret, a wonderful center for Nature Tourism sixty miles south of Cancun. The night show at Xcaret is an absolute must! After Xcaret, our final three days were spent in paradise... Isla Mujeres! Isla Mujeres in my very favorite place in the world. We snorkled, went swimming, caught a big barracuda and enjoyed the beaches and beautiful waters of the Caribbean. It was difficult for most of us to leave, but we knew we had little choice. We had three great weeks together and developed a genuine fondness for each other. Friends and memories were made that will last a lifetime. Viva Mexico!

Boulder continued

practical application of new knowledge at the local level.

Other workshop plenary sessions of interest included: "The Political Economy of Hazards;" "Evaluating the National Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan;" and "U.S.-Japan Research: Socioeconomic Aspects of Earthquakes and Other Hazards." Workshop panels and papers related to hazards included a spectrum of topics on a variety of hazards. On the "human" side, presentations included the role of government, risk

Department Represented at South African Conference

Dr. Pam Showalter

For some years, now, I have been working on a project with colleagues in South Africa's Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Institute for Water Quality Studies. They suggested that we present our findings at the 28th International Symposium on Remote Sensing of Environment, held in Cape Town last March. Because the meeting nearly overlapped with the annual AAG meeting, this suggestion caused a dilemma—do I attend the AAG meeting in Pittsburgh or go to Cape Town?

As you probably guessed, the *Cape Town 2000* meeting won that battle easily. I'm happy to say that our paper, "Revisiting Rietspruit: Land Cover Change and Water Quality in South Africa" (with co-authors Michael Silberbaur, Juanita Moolman, and Alison M. Howman) was well received. If you'd like to take a look at it, you can see it on a web page Michael maintains at: <http://www.dwaf.pwv.gov.za/directorates/iwqs/rietsprt/index.htm>.

I met a number of delightful people at the conference, some of whom could be future research collaborators. I also met and spoke with William Botha, Organizing Chairman for the meeting. I must admit that I got a bit of a start when, during his closing remarks, Mr. Botha noted that there was a Texan present by saying that environmental problems in South Africa were "attracting the attention of scholars from as far away as Texas"!

management, insurance, gender and ethical issues, environmental justice, policy issues, public and professional education, sustainability, vulnerability, perception, evacuation, recovery, planning and mitigation challenges. On the "physical" side, paper topics dealt with coastal erosion, engineering, prediction, causality models, and information technology, especially the use of GIS. Dr. Blanchard-Boehm presented an illustrated poster on lessons learned by the populace of San Marcos, Texas following the October 1998 Flood.

Around the World.

Escape to Guanajuato

Kate McAfee

On a sticky, sweaty Hill Country summer evening in July, eight intrepid geographers, led by Dr. David Stea and Dr. John Tiefenbacher were bound for a small colonial city in central Mexico. The adventure began with a twenty-hour bus ride south along the Pan-American Highway, across the Sierra Madre Occidental, and deep into the heart of the North Central Highlands. Both charming and visually stunning, Guanajuato is a lively city nestled in a cozy valley surrounded by mountains. The morphology of the city is defined by its colonial history and unique topography. From the stone-built tunnels where cars, buses, and pedestrians pass under the city up to the mines of Valenciana high on the hillside, Guanajuato grows vertically. Colorfully painted homes with fresh, bright flower boxes perched on the windowsills line the winding maze of cobblestone streets. Our *casa* for the duration, the *Hotel Meson de las*



Poetes, was located just a short hike from the center of town. The accommodations seemed luxurious to our group of travelers by virtue of the hotel's pleasing spatial and aesthetic character, Spartan cleanliness, and friendly atmosphere.

We usually awoke to a strange cacophony of rooftop dogs barking and cathedral bells tolling and made our way slowly to the open-air courtyard of the hotel where we passed our mornings learning, discussing, debating, meeting and relaxing. Guest speakers from the University of Guanajuato, the tourism office, and Mexico City injected local knowledge and reality into our lively exploration of the geography of the Bajío region. Our discussion topics included the history, economics, agriculture, architecture, environmental problems, and urban design of the Bajío and Guanajuato.

In the afternoons we navigated through



the maze of city streets to find the well-guarded repositories of knowledge. Fortunately, Dr. Tiefenbacher supplied the GPS and Dr. Stea supplied a bit of Spanish to keep us on track while we slowly became acclimated to attempting research in a foreign country. On our individual quests to obtain maps, data and general information of and about the Bajío region, we discovered that there is no browsing option, on-line searchable database, or even a card catalog at the library. You simply tell the librarians what you need and they disappear for a short time and return with an armload of materials, which you hope are what you were looking for.

In the evenings, we took advantage of the wonderfully cool, crisp air as we immersed ourselves in the heart of the city. We attended a violin concert at the Teatro Juarez, dined in the Jardín de la Unión while listening to the "Cervatino" street musicians, watched a mime perform for a captivated audience on the steps of the *teatro* and tried out our salsa moves at El Bar. We also ventured out to the shopping meccas of Leon, a Deplhi auto parts manufacturing plant in Querétaro, the small town of Dolores Hidalgo, Cubilete (the massive statue of Christ on the hill), the silver mines of Valenciana, the Las Palomas natural area, and finally, the *balnearios* (hot springs) and extensive artist's market of San Miguel de Allende.

By the time we were ready to start back home, most of us had overcome any minor infirmities and forgotten (or, at least tried to) that the trip home was going to be just as long as the trip getting there had been. And, of course, it would have been if it weren't for that strange stroke of luck that landed us on the bus that just couldn't quite make it all the way to Monterrey without a siesta (or perhaps it was a coma). It left us stranded for five hours along that very same Pan-American Highway – no big deal. It was all part of the experience. And a positive experience it was.

Visser continued...

agricultural geography and sheep jokes. In the twilight of my career I'm still teaching environmental management and energy management.

'Twilight' of his career you're wondering? No, it's not because of the angioplasty that I just underwent. You guys may not have appreciated the economics and statistics that I tried to teach you, but it made me enough money so that I can retire next August at the age of 54, while my body is still up to practicing geography, meaning traveling, Shank's pony (hiking), and rafting. I'm also weary of the commute to work from north of Georgetown, which is where I now live with my wife Mary and our two children. Mary and I adopted Dirk in 1987, and Marieke in 1994, both as newborns. As well as coaching them into soccer professionals, I'm the under-8 commissioner for the Georgetown Soccer Association!

Before I fade from these halls and eventually leave the central Texas cauldron, I would like to see those of you who befriended me over the years at the next alumni reunion. We can relive one of my infamous pub crawls which hasn't been staged for more than 15 years. I want to hear from you, and see if you're interested. Contact other people who may not have read this and tell them we are going to party one more time for nostalgia's sake. We'll walk the crawl and we may even sing a little, and this time we'll also arrange transport to your beds at the end!

Mary and I, with the help of Lawrence Estaville, have created the Adriana Samantha Visser Memorial Scholarship for mothers majoring in geography, especially mothers of a handicapped child. Adriana was diagnosed in 1982 as having San Filippo syndrome, an autosomal sugar storage disease. It's genetic and causes developmental delay followed by physical and mental regression. She died in 1988 at age 12. We want to keep Adriana's name alive and we'd like the scholarship pot enriched. So if you are affluent as a result of all those knowledge gems I taught you, send money to the Adriana Samantha Visser Memorial Scholarship fund at the SWT Development Foundation. If you don't do this, I'll still let you come on the pub crawl. Just let me know – I won't do it without a large group of keen crawlers.

Storm Chasing Proves Lucky

Bill Monfredo

Bill and Lisa Monfredos' venture into the field for some storm chasing in May 2000 netted two Texas tornadoes. During the late afternoon and evening of May 26th, a long-lived supercell thunderstorm developed along an old thunderstorm outflow boundary from the evening before. The storm moved toward Jacksboro, TX, near Wichita Falls, and produced a brief, weak tornado less than a quarter of a mile from our position. The baseball-sized hail fell downstream from our location, although we heard the noise of the hail rumbling around within the thunderstorm's anvil cloud.

The morning of May 27 was characterized by high humidity, high temperatures, and extreme atmospheric instability. With only a small temperature inversion, the convection and storms began in the early afternoon near Wichita Falls. While a brief "landspout" tornado was reported near Archer City, where "The Last Picture Show" was filmed, the main show took place near Antelope, TX. A large and photogenic funnel cloud touched down briefly in an open field surrounded by chasers, meteorologists, and geographers. Eventually, the storms merged into a long squall line. Neither tornado was associated with major damage.

High pressure built into the central and northern Plains during the first week of June. By the second week, "tropical" conditions and rain dampened central TX, bringing San Antonio more than 5 inches of rain in 6 days. But soon thereafter, the

summer "death-ridge" of high pressure and subsiding air put an end to the TX tornado season and paved the way for record high temperatures.

U.S. Geological Survey Funds Field- work on Effects of Climate Change at Alpine Treeline

*Dr. David Butler and
Dr. George Malanson*

During the summer of 2000, Dr. David Butler and Dr. George Malanson recently completed fieldwork funded by the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. The project spans five years, with funding continuing through 2003, and is examining the question of whether alpine tundra in Glacier National Park, Montana, is undergoing invasion by trees from lower elevations. The alpine tundra environment of Glacier National Park provides valuable habitat for many unique species of plants and animals. If a climate change, possibly associated with anthropogenically driven global warming, creates conditions that allow trees to survive and succeed at higher elevations than in recent decades, an upward invasion by trees could occur with a resulting loss in extent of tundra habitat. Fieldwork by Drs. Butler and Malanson was undertaken to collect data on soil conditions and geomorphic processes at treeline at several sites in eastern

Nevada Academy of Science.

The cost for the trip will be \$3495 plus an additional \$500 for tuition. This amount covers all airfare, lodging, motorcoach, tour guides and rail transportation in Rome, Venice and Paris. It does not cover meals. The trip is designed so that those who want to extend their study and travel in Europe after conclusion of the class on July 31 may do so conveniently. Return flights can be rescheduled for a nominal fee (approx. \$100). All participants who are enrolled in an SWT academic program are eligible for the International Education Fee Scholarship (\$200-\$1,000) that can be

applied for through the SWT Office of Financial Aid, which also has other funding options available. Application materials will be available beginning October 2 from the SWT Department of Geography Office or by contracting Dr. Earl at RE02@SWT.EDU or Dept. Geography, SWT, San Marcos, TX 78666.

Record Heat Starts Semester!

Dr. Rich Dixon

The new fall semester started off sizzling as record heat gripped the area. In the first two weeks of the semester, Austin recorded 10 consecutive days over 100 degrees while San Antonio topped the century mark 7 times. All-time record high temperatures were set in both cities on September 4, only to be broken the very next day! The summer has been dry as well. Austin recorded only 0.13 inch of rain in August, the 7th driest on record. San Antonio had its 8th driest August as only 0.16 inch fell.

***Mark your calendars! The
Seventh Annual Alumni
Reunion
and Student Celebration is
on April 21, 2001***

Study Abroad continued

geographers with years of field experience and travel in Europe. Dr. Day has studied at the Universite de Poitiers in France. Dr. Earl was one of the faculty for the 1999 SWT Geography of Europe field excursion and has traveled and studied throughout Europe. Both professors have led numerous field trips and field excursions in their teaching careers including field trips for the annual meetings of the Association of American Geographers, the National Council for Geographic Education, the Southwest Division of the Association of American Geographers, and the Arizona-

applied for through the SWT Office of Financial Aid, which also has other funding options available.

Application materials will be available beginning October 2 from the SWT Department of Geography Office or by contracting Dr. Earl at RE02@SWT.EDU or Dept. Geography, SWT, San Marcos, TX 78666.



Alumni Information Update

Mail this form to: Dr. Fred Shelley
 Department of Geography
 Southwest Texas State University
 601 University Drive
 San Marcos, TX 78666-4616

Name: _____

Degree(s): _____ Year(s) Received: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Place of Work: _____ Job Title: _____

Work Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Family, Special Interests, and Other Information:

Personal Reminiscences or Recommendations:

SWT Department of Geography's SEVENTH ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION & STUDENT CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM

Saturday, April 21, 2001

Name(s): _____

Home address: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax: _____

Number attending reunion _____ (list all names above):

Amount enclosed: _____
 \$15.00 per person, \$10.00 for students and
 children under 18
 (children 10 and under are free)

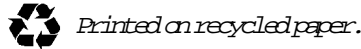
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PLEASE MAIL OR FAX FORM TO:
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 Department of Geography SWT,
 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666
 Phone: 512-245-1823 • Fax: 512-245-1653 • E-mail: jb42@swt.edu



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